



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

engage - entertain - educate - empower

BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026 | 9AM-9PM
SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
H. DUTCHER COMMUNITY ROOM**

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

In 2025, both the Saratoga Springs Public Library and I hit milestone birthdays: the Library's charter turned 75, and I moved one year closer to the end of a 40-year career in library work. January 2026 marked the 18th anniversary of my tenure as Director, and while much has changed in both the library and the community since 2008, some things remain constant. We are a community that supports our cultural and educational institutions, and we are generous in our support of one another—even, and perhaps especially, in trying times.

More than ever before, we find our Library not only providing access to content that informs and entertains, but also providing access to resources and experiences that are fundamental to the physical and mental health and well-being of our community. From adult literacy resources, to English Language Learning opportunities, to story times for our youngest new readers, to barrier-free access to life-saving recovery materials and food to nurture the mind, body, and soul, the range of resources and opportunities provided at your library, and the breadth and depth of our cooperation with partners to bring these resources to you, are unparalleled in our history.

At our recent ribbon-cutting event for the expansion of Comfort Food Community's Farm2Library project into our library and additional libraries in Saratoga County, I was reminded of a literacy initiative from my childhood: RIF, or Reading is Fundamental. At its inception, RIF was formed to promote the idea that that children who have access to books at home are more successful readers. To this day, RIF persists, and has, like your library, evolved to provide access to e-books. The spirit of RIF lives on in local organizations and initiatives, like Stories for Success, which provides books and literacy information to new babies and their families in the community, and the Saratoga Literacy League, which preserves and redistributes gently used children's books, helping to ensure that books are present in homes.

Similarly, our participation in Farm2Library, which provides barrier-free access to food from local producers, is based on the idea that "feeding is fundamental." No one should go hungry, and food for thought is easier to digest on a full tummy. We are in a moment in our history, both as an institution and as a community, when we are reminded that it is more important than ever that we make room at the table for everyone, and to provide a menu that satisfies a variety of tastes.

For your support in helping us preserve and provide access to our greatest treasures, and to innovate in the scope and delivery of our services, we are grateful.

With gratitude,



A. Issac "Ike" Pulver, Library Director

Photo: *Library Director Ike Pulver and Assistant Director Jennifer Ferriss tend the library's community garden plot at Pitney Meadows Community Farm in Saratoga Springs, NY.*



TRUSTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Nurcan Atalan-Helicke

Nurcan Atalan-Helicke, Ph.D., has been a Saratoga Springs resident for 15 years. A social scientist by training, she is a professor in the Environmental Studies and Sciences Department at Skidmore College, where she teaches a range of courses, including the Politics of Food, and Human Rights and Development. Nurcan has collaborated extensively with the City of Saratoga Springs and civic organizations including Sustainable Saratoga, Pitney Meadows Community Farm, and the Saratoga Immigration Coalition. Her community service includes mentoring for the Saratoga Mentoring Program and volunteering with Lifeworks Community Action and the Regional Food Bank. As a mother and an immigrant, Nurcan values the library as an essential space for all ages. She personally enjoys the library's science fiction, cookbook, and anime collections, and is dedicated to fostering its growth as a welcoming resource for every member of the community.



Carol Daags

Carol Daggs is a lifelong Saratoga Springs resident with family roots in the "Spa City" stretching back to the 1800s. Carol's history with the Saratoga Springs Public Library began in her preschool days at the former Broadway location through the Crib & Crawl program. Currently finishing her first five-year term as an SSPL Board Member, she is seeking a second term beginning later this year. An accomplished educator, artist, and author, Carol's book *Saratoga Soul: Brandtville Blues* was chosen as the 2021 SaratogaREADS! community selection. When she isn't teaching or practicing as a New York State Licensed Massage Therapist, Carol enjoys reading, writing, and walking in her historic Brandtville neighborhood.



HOW DID YOUR LIBRARY SERVE THE COMMUNITY IN 2025?

- Library users borrowed 552,172 items.
 - Cardholders downloaded or viewed 105,523 e-books, e-audios, and streaming movies.
 - Library staff prepared, presented, and hosted more than 1,423 program session for 13,830 participants of all ages, including 908 one-on-one sessions devoted to adult basic education, digital literacy, and English Language Learning.
 - 1,357 people attended English Language Learning classes and tutoring sessions with library staff and volunteers.
 - Library staff made 510 visits to individual home-bound residents, senior housing sites, and school classrooms, reaching and serving 8,960 people in locations outside of the library.
 - 249,911 people visited the library in 2025.
 - Librarians answered 40,777 reference questions.
 - Users logged 34,472 sessions on library computer and wireless services
 - In 2025, library meeting rooms were booked by non-profit community organizations or used on a walk-in basis 959 times.
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SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2026-2027

	FY2025-2026	FY2026-2027
Books	\$160,000	\$150,000
Magazines & Microfilm	\$27,000	\$27,000
Electronic Resources	\$170,000	\$180,000
Computer Software	\$10,000	\$15,000
Audio & Visual Materials	\$40,000	\$30,000
Supplies	\$50,000	\$50,000
Postage	\$11,000	\$12,000
Miscellaneous & Bank Charges	\$10,500	\$13,000
Insurance	\$75,000	\$80,000
Heat	\$15,000	\$15,000
Electricity	\$125,000	\$120,000
Phone & Internet	\$20,000	\$20,000
Sewer Tax	\$10,000	\$10,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$120,000	\$125,000
Equipment	\$80,000	\$70,000
Conferences & Training	\$30,000	\$30,000
Professional Services	\$80,000	\$70,000
Printing	\$10,000	\$10,000
Program Expenses	\$75,000	\$75,000
Automation	\$115,000	\$115,000
Capital Projects	\$500,000	\$100,000
Retirement	\$450,000	\$500,000
Social Security	\$260,000	\$265,000
Health Insurance	\$872,850	\$960,135
Disability Insurance	\$3,000	\$3,000
Salaries	\$3,350,000	\$3,467,250
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$6,669,350	\$6,512,385
Income Other Than School District Levy	\$1,225,882	\$960,058
Required from School District Levy	\$5,443,458	\$5,552,327

